

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DHA-05 ACDA-07 /072 W  
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R 302104Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3925  
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
CINCPAC HONOLULU  
AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY  
AMEMBASSY SUVA  
AMCONSUL AUCKLAND POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 03882

DEPARTMENT FOR DEP SEC CHRISTOPHER, WHITE HOUSE FOR  
BRZEZINSKI

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PGOV, NZ, US  
SUBJECT: MULDOON AGAIN EXPRESSES CONFIDENCE IN CARTER  
ADMINISTRATION POLICIES

REF: (A) WELLINGTON 1442; (B) WELLINGTON 1458,  
(C) WELLINGTON 3792; (D) PORT MORESBY 1206

1. SUMMARY. IN A RECENT PRESS INTERVIEW, PRIME MINISTER  
MULDOON EXPLAINED SOME OF HIS EARLIER MISGIVINGS ABOUT  
THE EFFECT OF TRILATERALISM ON NEW ZEALAND AND EXPRESSED  
CONFIDENCE IN CLARIFICATIONS OF CARTER ADMINISTRATION  
POLICIES. NOTING DISCUSSIONS IN JULY WITH DEPSEC  
CHRISTOPHER, HE CALLED THEM THE MOST HELPFUL NEW ZEALAND  
HAS HAD WITH A US ADMINISTRATION FOR A LONG TIME.  
END SUMMARY.

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2. IN AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW PUBLISHED AUGUST 25 IN THE  
CHRISTCHURCH PRESS, NZ JOURNALIST CEDRIC MENTIPPLAY  
QUESTIONED PRIME MINISTER MULDOON ON WHAT HAD CONCERNED  
HIM ABOUT TRILATERALISM AT THE TIME OF HIS APRIL 19  
AUCKLAND SPEECH (SEE REFS A AND B). MULDOON REPLIED THAT  
THE ORIGINAL PROPOSAL OF THE TRILATERAL COMMISSION HAD  
BEEN A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES, WESTERN

EUROPE, AND JAPAN. THIS, SAID MULDOON, COULD HAVE MEANT THAT A GREAT DEAL OF THE COURSE OF DEVELOPMENT IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE IN WORLD ECONOMICS, AND ALSO IN THE POLITICAL AND STRATEGIC SENSE, LAY IN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE THREE. QUOTE - I THINK IT HAS BECOME CLEAR SINCE THE TIME I SPOKE THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS BECOME MUCH MORE CLOSELY CONCERNED WITH OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD, AND PARTICULARLY, AS WE ARE CONCERNED, WITH THE SOUTH PACIFIC. THE DISCUSSIONS WE HAD AT THE TIME OF THE ANZUS MEETING WITH WARREN CHRISTOPHER WERE VERY HELPFUL, INDEED, IN FACT, THE MOST HELPFUL WE HAVE HAD WITH A UNITED STATES ADMINISTRATION FOR A LONG TIME - UNQUOTE.

3. THE PRIME MINISTER THEN WENT ON TO SAY: QUOTE - I FOUND WHEN IN IN SOUTHEAST ASIA THAT HE (DEPSEC CHRISTOPHER) HAD ALSO BEEN THROUGH THERE. HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH THESE STATES HAD EASED A GOOD DEAL OF THE UNEASINESS THAT WAS FELT EARLIER THIS YEAR. MUCH THE SAME THING HAPPENED IN AUSTRALIA, BUT, OF COURSE THE AUSTRALIANS PARTICIPATED IN THE ANZUS MEETING HERE IN WELLINGTON - UNQUOTE.

4. MULDOON OBSERVED THAT THERE HAD BEEN A VERY CLEAR DEVELOPMENT IN THE PRESENTATION OF UNITED STATES FOREIGN POLICY THIS YEAR. QUOTE - MANY OF THE WORRIES WE HAD IN THE EARTY PART OF THE YEAR ARE OF LESS CONCERN TO US NOW  
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-UNQUOTE. GENERALLY, THE PRIME MINISTER CONCLUDED, THE POSITION HAS CLARIFIED ITSELF QUITE WELL.

5. COPIES OF THE COMPLETE INTERVIEW ARE BEING POUCHED TO ALL ADDRESSEES.

6. EMBASSY COMMENT: AS WE REPORTED LAST APRIL, MULDOON'S PRINCIPAL CONCERN ABOUT CARTER'S ADMINISTRATION POLICIES -- HOWEVER UNDIPLOMATICALLY HE MIGHT HAVE EXPRESSED IT-- WAS THAT THE INTERESTS OF SMALL COUNTRIES LIKE NEW ZEALAND MIGHT BE OVERLOOKED. THE PRIME MINISTER IS OBVIOUSLY ON HIS BEST BEHAVIOR IN PREPARATION FOR HIS NOVEMBER VISIT TO PRESIDENT CARTER, BUT HE ALSO HAS BEEN GENUINELY REASSURED BY THE UNFOLDING OF THE NEW ADMINISTRATION'S POLICIES, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO THE REALISM ASSOCIATED WITH OUR HUMAN RIGHTS POLICIES, THE HANDLING OF TROOP WITHDRAWALS FROM SOUTH KOREA, AND THE CLARIFICATION OF OUR DEMILITARIZATION GOAL IN THE INDIAN OCEAN.

7. MULDOON'S REASSURANCE HAS BEEN AIDED AS WELL BY A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE MEANING OF TRILATERALISM. IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT IN THE PARAPHRASE IN PARA 2 ABOVE HE

INDICATED CONCERN EARLIER THIS YEAR ABOUT THE IMPACT OF  
TRILATERALISM ON WORLD ECONOMICS AND MENTIONED ITS POLITICAL  
AND STRATEGIC MEANING ONLY AS AN AFTER-THOUGHT. DEPSEC  
CHRISTOPHER'S REASSURANCE THAT THE US IS CONCERNED ABOUT  
NEW ZEALAND'S ECONOMIC HEALTH SEEMS TO HAVE GONE A LONG  
WAY IN CALMING MULDOON'S MISGIVINGS. SELDEN

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## Message Attributes

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